



# TAROT

FOR  
BEGINNERS



TERI SCHURE



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For permission or further contact information, write to:  
Teri Schure, All Media, Inc., 124 Grove Avenue,  
#401, Cedarhurst, NY 11516.



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## DEDICATION



In the late 1970s, a close friend and work colleague turned me on to Tarot cards, but it wasn't until March 2020, during the Covid lockdown, that I bought a deck for myself.

Four years later, I feel as though I can finally read the cards reasonably well, but I still refer to my notes—this book—for guidance.

*Tarot for Beginners* is dedicated to my friend and hero, Leslie Jacobs, who taught me way more than Tarot and is one of the kindest, most courageous, positive, and resilient women I have ever known.





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## SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

**ARIES:** March 21–April 19

**TAURUS:** April 20–May 20

**GEMINI:** May 21–June 20

**CANCER:** June 21–July 22

**LEO:** July 23–August 22

**VIRGO:** August 23–September 22

**LIBRA:** September 23–October 22

**SCORPIO:** October 23–November 21

**SAGITTARIUS:** November 22–December 21

**CAPRICORN:** December 22–January 19

**AQUARIUS:** January 20–February 18

**DISCES:** February 19–March 20





# TAROT 101



**T**he elite played tarot cards in the 1400s as a parlor game—a divination or occult connection only became popular in the late 1500s. In England, in 1889, Arthur Edward Waite, a spiritual seeker and mystic, wrote one of the first books about how to read tarot, ultimately creating the world's most influential deck of tarot cards: The Rider-Waite® Tarot Deck.

Waite was a member of the secret society called the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. In 1909, Waite paid Pamela Colman Smith, a fellow Golden Dawn member, a flat fee to illustrate his tarot deck. Smith was a Black woman of Jamaican descent, born in London to American parents, and studied art at the Pratt Institute in New York. Rider Publishing put their name on the deck but never gave credit to the incredibly talented Ms. Smith—nor did she or her family ever benefit financially from the Rider-Waite tarot cards.

The Rider-Waite cards have greatly helped me facilitate a free-association approach to tarot reading, primarily due to Ms. Smith's creative genius. For this reason, I used the Rider-Waite tarot cards to write my book, so you will need to buy their deck if you want to use my interpretation of the deck's imagery.

The easiest way to begin a tarot reading is with one card. Once you familiarize yourself with the images and stories behind each card, step up to a three-card reading. Many readers use past, present, and future, but I prefer to read the cards without placing a time frame on them. You're the tarot reader, so you do you. Just remember, practice makes perfect. Let the cards do the talking—the pictures will guide you through the reading.

In a three-card reading, I ask the querent (the person I'm reading) to shuffle and lay out three cards face down in a row. Only the querent should touch the cards. The querent will lay the cards face down, then turn them over face up, precisely as they placed them.

The reading of the cards, upright or upside down (reversed), is from the position and perspective of the reader. Reversed tarot cards may represent the excessive energy of a card and are not necessarily the opposite of an upright card.

I also like to keep a notebook of my past readings so I can go back and review the cards, which often offers additional insight into them.





# THE MAJOR ARCANA CARDS EXPLAINED



**A**rcana is derived from the Latin word “*arcanus*,” which means “secret.” The Major Arcana cards symbolize the karmic influences, lessons learned, and the spiritual journey that impacts your life and your soul’s path to enlightenment.

These cards are often considered the most influential and powerful cards in the deck and play a crucial role in interpreting the overall long-term aspects of a tarot reading.

The significance of the Major Arcana cards is complex and profound, creating a storyline of the querent’s triumphs, failures, struggles, regrets, self-discovery, and personal growth.

Pulling Major Arcana cards in a tarot reading signifies the need to face head-on the trials and tribulations you may be facing in your life and often serves as the anchor for the reading.

The rest of the cards in the reading will usually connect to the central message and meaning of the Major Arcana.

If the Major Arcana cards make up most of your reading, you may soon embark on a life-changing situation that could upend your life’s trajectory.

If most of the Major Arcana cards are reversed, it may indicate that you need to open your eyes to the reality of what’s happening around you before moving forward. Whenever the Major Arcana is part of a reading, it acts as the framework and helps to reinforce, guide, and connect the message and pattern of all the pulled cards.

The Major Arcana, often called Triumph or Trump Cards, total 22, from the Fool at zero to the World at 21. They are frequently referred to as 22 doors or 22 pivotal moments in human and spiritual development and are used to explore one’s psyche, consciousness, and mental state.

When you draw a Major Arcana card, take it seriously because the message may be crucial to the overall reading.





# THE COURT CARDS EXPLAINED

## PAGES

Pages often represent young children and teenagers. They are at the beginning of their journey and symbolize a new stage in life. Pages are seekers of knowledge and work hard to better themselves. Pages are also messengers and can often symbolize the presence of spirits who are trying to tell you something.



## KNIGHTS

Knights often represent young adults between their twenties and the mid-thirties. Their journey has already begun, and they're focused on expanding their horizons. They have enough experience to know what they're doing but don't have the life experience that the Kings and Queens have; thus, they may be prone to making careless mistakes and questionable decisions.



## QUEENS

Queens represent someone older and wiser—35-plus—and express feminine energy, nurturing, and caring for those they love. They are masters at setting the tone without imposing their views and use their power quietly but purposefully. They have the power of persuasion and subtly influence others without being seen as overbearing or pushy.

Because of this, Queens are often viewed as more powerful than Kings because they're in control without anyone knowing it. The adage "Behind every great man, there is a great woman" is the general theme of the Queen cards.



## KINGS

Kings represent mature and experienced individuals—35 and older—suggesting masculine energy or someone providing and caring for others. They're mentors who want to be in command: they manage, control, and stabilize the energy associated with their suit. Kings are adept at controlling their feelings, emotions, thoughts, and actions and are stable and focused on directing and achieving their dreams and goals.





# THE MINOR ARCANA CARDS EXPLAINED



**T**he 56 Minor Arcana cards represent life's practical side: the hardships, trials, and tribulations we all face daily.

The Minor Arcana cards contain four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles.

Each suit is associated with one of the four elements—fire, water, air, and earth—and connected to specific zodiac signs.

The order of the tarot suits usually follows the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn:

**Wands (Fire):** Aries (3/21–4/19), Leo (7/23–8/22), Sagittarius (11/22–12/21)

**Cups (Water):** Cancer (6/21–7/22), Pisces (2/19–3/20), Scorpio (10/23–11/21)

**Swords (Air):** Aquarius (1/20–2/18), Gemini (5/21–6/20), Libra (9/23–10/22)

**Pentacles (Earth):** Capricorn (12/22–1/19), Taurus (4/20–5/20), Virgo (8/23–9/22)

Each of the 16 tarot court cards (Page, Knight, Queen, King) represents shedding old habits, beliefs, and mindsets to accept new perspectives and embrace growth.

One of the most common challenges for reading tarot cards is understanding the significance of the court cards.

Are they associated with you, others, events, personalities, or something else?

Does the Queen have to be a woman, or does the Page have to be a person under 20?

The answer is, as in life, nothing is as it seems.

Aside from the 16 court cards, there are 40 numbered cards, each containing 10 suit cards that symbolize the mundane of everyday life.

Each suit starts with the Ace and progresses up to 10, concluding with the four court cards—Page, Knight, Queen, and King—which complete the suit of 14 cards.







## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**Teri Schure** is the founder of the international news website *Worldpress.org*, a freelance journalist, writer, blogger, and business consultant.

Her blog, *The Teri Tome*, attracts over 30,000 page views per month, plus an additional 50,000 on *Worldpress.org*.

Teri has been an executive director at *Newsweek*, a publisher and COO of *World Press Review* magazine, and in 2007, was *Commentary* magazine's first female publisher since its founding in 1945.

Her first novel, *Our Romantic Getaway*, was published in 2014, followed by a children's book, *The Day It Snowed Popcorn*, in 2019.

For more information about Teri, her life's storms, frailties, shortcomings, and random musings, go to her blog at [blog.terischure.com](http://blog.terischure.com) or her author website at [terischure.com](http://terischure.com).

